

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1-2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently amended) A method for assessing the (regulation of) expression, synthesis and/or secretion of ghrelin, wherein a cell line selected from RF-1 having ATCC number CRL-1864 and RF-48 having ATCC number CRL-1863, capable of producing ghrelin when grown in a suitable medium, is grown in such medium, and cells of said cell line are exposed to ~~said a test~~ compound wherein the effect of ~~a test said~~ compound on ghrelin expression and/or secretion is screened.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the medium is Leibovitz's L15 containing 10% (vol/vol) foetal bovine serum and 2 Mm L-glutamine, and wherein the cell line is grown at a temperature of 37° C in the absence of CO₂.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the medium is changed at least every 4 days.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the cell line is plated and grown in a culture plate after achieving cell confluence, wherein the plate is stored under the same incubation conditions as those used for growing the cell line, and wherein ghrelin production is measured using an immunoassay kit.

Claim 8 (Previously presented) Method according to claim 3, wherein the cell line is used to study ghrelin gene expression.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the cell line is exposed to a variety of test compounds.

Claim 10-11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3 wherein the test compound is screened for drugs or functional ingredients for food products that modulate feelings of satiety or appetite in humans or animals.

Claim 13 (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8 wherein the cell line is used to study ghrelin gene expression by means of quantitative RT-PCR.